

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SCS-03 L-03 H-01 DHA-05

PRS-01 SS-15 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

INRE-00 SSO-00 IO-13 PPT-01 SCA-01 /073 W

-----130780 311548Z /45

O P 311445Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0968

AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KIGALI PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CARR, CASC, UG, US

SUBJECT: MISSING AMERICANS IN UGANDA

REF: NAIROBI 11037

1. IN AN INTERVIEW WITH NAIROBI'S CONSULAR OFFICER, MONICA NANSAMBA, SOURCE OF DECAPITATION STORY, PROVIDED FOLLOWING INFORMATION: SHE IS 24 YEARS OLD, FROM KAMPALA, WHERE HER FATHER, JOHN MUKASA, IS A RETIRED DOCTOR WHO ONCE WORKED AT KAMPALA'S MULAGO HOSPITAL. SHE WAS TRAINED AS A NURSE AT MULAGO HOSPITAL FROM 1971 TO AUGUST 1972. THEREAFTER SHE WORKED AT JINJA HOSPITAL, FINALLY RETURNING TO KAMPALA IN 1975 TO BEGIN WORK AT MBUYA MILITARY HOSPITAL AS A SURGICAL NURSE. ON AUGUST 10 AT ABOUT 2:30 P.M., HER SUPERVISOR, DR. (CAPTAIN) MAWASI ORDERED HER TO ASSIST HIM AND ANOTHER DOCTOR SHE DOES NOT KNOW IN AN OPERATION. SHE STATES OPERATION WAS PERFORMED

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AT MBUYA'S SOLE OPERATING THEATER. UPON ENTERING THE THEATER WITH THE TWO DOCTORS, SHE FOUND THE SIX CADAVERS. THE BODIES BORE GUNSHOT WOUNDS IN THE CHEST REGION BUT THE FACES WERE UNTOUCHED. SHE STATES SHE SAW NO TATTOOS OR IDENTIFYING MARKS ON THE BODIES OF THE THREE "EUROPEANS," BUT THAT ONE OF THEM HAD A FULL BEARD. SHE STATES SHE DOES NOT RECALL THE HAIR COLOR OF THE MEN.

ASKED FOR MEDICAL DETAILS OF THE DECAPITATION OPERATION, SHE SAID ONLY THAT THE HEADS WERE "CUT OFF WITH A KNIFE" BY THE DOCTORS. SHE STATES THAT HER ONLY ACTION DURING THE OPERATION WAS TO "POUR SOME MEDININE" ONTO THE SEVERED NECKS OF THE BODIES, AT THE DIRECTION OF THE DOCTORS. SHE SAYS THE DOCTOR WENT AND GOT THE "MEDICINE" HIMSELF, AND THAT SHE DOES NOT KNOW WHAT IT WAS. THE HEADS WERE PLACED IN A CARDBOARD BOX AND TAKEN AWAY BY THE DOCTOR. SHE STATES THAT SHE RECOGNIZED ONE OF THE DEAD GIRLS AS JANE NANSINKOMBI, A FORMER SCHOOLMATE OF HERS AT GAYAZA HIGH SCHOOL, NEAR KAMPALA. ON THE FOLLOWING DAY (AUGUST 11) SHE REMOVED HER FRIEND'S HEAD FROM A REFRIGERATION CABINET TO WHICH SHE HAD THE KEY, PLACED THE HEAD IN A BASKET, AND DROVE TO THE HOME OF THE GIRL'S FATHER, WHOM SHE IDENTIFIED AS "MR. KABUGO." SHE SAYS SHE DOES NOT KNOW WHAT JOB KABUGO HAS. KABUGO TOOK THE HEAD AND TOLD HER HE WOULD CARRY IT TO PRESIDENT AMIN, WHEREUPON SHE BECAME ALARMED THAT HER PART IN DISCLOSING THE GIRL'S DEATH MIGHT BECOME KNOWN. SHE THEN DISPOSED OF HER PERSONAL BELONGINGS, SELLING HER CAR (WHICH SHE HAD PLANNED TO DO FOR SOME TIME) AND TOOK A TAXI TO THE KENYAN BORDER AT BUSIA, ARRIVING IN KENYA AUGUST 17. SOME DAYS LATER SHE WAS TOLD BY REFUGEES HERE THAT DR. MAWASI AND MR. KABUGO HAD BEEN FOUND DEAD IN KAMPALA.

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2. NURSE NANSAMBA APPEARED STRAIGHTFORWARD TO EMBOFF, BUT WAS NOT TERRIBLY RESPONSIVE AND CONSERABLE LEADING OF THE WITNESS WAS REQUIRED TO GET DETAILS. HER DESCRIPTION ESPECIALLY OF THE DECAPITATION OPERATION APPEARED LACKING IN THE SORT OF MEDICAL DETAIL ONE MIGHT EXPECT FROM SOMEONE WITH FIVE YEAR'S EXPERIENCE ASSISTING SURGEIONS. IN FACT, IT IS DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND WHY DECAPITATION, EVEN FOR SUPPOSED TROPHY-MOUNTING PURPOSES, NECESSITATES SURGICAL PROCEDURE IN OPERATING THEATER AT ALL, MUCH LESS ATTENDANCE OF TWO DOCTORS AND A NURSE.

3. GO-BETWEEN FOR THIS SOURCE IS JOGN SEKABIRA, WHO DESCRIBES HIMSELF AS A FORMER STUDENT AT MAKERERE UNIVERSITY WHO FLED UGANDA ABOUT A MONTH AGO. SEKABIRA STATES THAT "MR. KABUGO" SERVED AS DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION TO THE LATE KABAKA OF UGANDA, AND PRESENTLY WORKS FOR THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION, ALTHOUGH HE IS NOT RPT NOT "DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION" NOW. SEKABIRA OCCASIONALLY PROMPTED NANSAMBA OR CORRECTED HER ON DETAILS OF STORY.

4. SEKABIRA IS ALSO CONTACT FOR ORIGINAL SOURCE OF THE ARREST REPORT, EMPLOYEE AT FAIRWAY HOTEL. THIS PERSON

IDENTIFIED BY SEKABIRA AS PETER KIWIMBA, FORMER FRONT
DESK MANAGER OF FAIRWAY HOTEL. KIWIMBA REPORTEDLY IS
STAYING IN LIMURU, SOME 40 MILES FROM NAIROBI, AND
REFUSES TO PERMIT SEKABIRA TO BRING ANYONE TO HIM.
SEKABIRA APPARENTLY HAS MADE THE ROUNDS OF NEWS AGENCIES
HERE SEEKING EXPENSE MONEY FOR HIMSELF, AND MENTIONED
TO EMBASSY OFFICER THAT HE NEEDED SIXTY SHILLINGS TO
PAY FOR TRANSPORTATION TO AND FROM LIMURU. EMBOFF DID
NOT TAKE THIS HINT, BUT ASKED SEKABIRA TO REQUEST
KIWIMBA TO COME TO NAIROBI FOR INTERVIEW.

5. FRG EMBASSY, KAMPALA, MAY BE ABLE TO MAKE FURTHER
INQUIRIES, PARTICULARLY REGARDING KIWIMBA'S CLAIMED
EMPLOYMENT AT FAIRWAY HOTEL AND NANSAMBA'S TRAINING AND
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EMPLOYMENT AS NURSE IN KAMPALA.

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